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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/641,764      | 08/15/2003  | Marc Finley          | CHR964              | 2755             |

30245 7590 09/22/2005

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| EXAMINER |
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NGUYEN, BINH AN DUC

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3713

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                     |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/641,764 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>FINLEY, MARC |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Binh-An D. Nguyen | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3713             |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 and 10-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 9, and 17 contain the trademark/trade name Astroturf<sup>TM</sup>. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe artificial turf and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite. Note that, the Applicant should change the claimed trademark name Astroturf<sup>TM</sup> to "artificial turf" or relative term to overcome this rejection.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited reference of Bertucci (3,870,314) teaches a method and system for practicing golf wherein a vertical shaft protrudes upwardly and having a golf ball shaped knob on its upper exposed end for being struck by a golf club which, when struck, causes the vertical shaft to pivot forwardly about a horizontal, transverse shaft which at the same time is forwardly slided in supporting slots against the action of a return spring, the horizontal shaft having a plate attached thereto with electric contacts thereupon which during travel progressively engage with corresponding stationary sets of contacts so to progressively close different circuits each having a different indicator lamp designating a particular driving distance; and the cited reference of Plank, JR.(2004/0127304) teaches an electronic golf swing analyzing system that uses an array of infrared (IR) and ultrasonic (U/S) sensors, activated by an embedded micro-controller, to capture swing data to accurately calculate the club head's velocity, face angle, and swing path at impact.

Bertucci and/or Plank, JR., alone or in combination, does not anticipate or make obvious the applicant's claimed limitations of a golf swing analyzing device (and method thereto), comprising: a tee mat having an embedded pressure sensing means located in one corner of said mat, said embedded sensing means occupying no more than one-fourth of the topographical area of said mat, said mat further having first and second

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boundary liner; marking the area below where said embedded sensing means is located, said first boundary line indicating the side of said embedded sensing means where a golfer stands, and said second boundary line indicating the front end of said embedded sensing means; a golf tee removably mounted to said mat by attaching means, said tee located just to the outside of said second front boundary line; and an electronic control box coupled to the output of said pressure sensing means, said control box further comprising a timer circuit coupled to a visible alarm means for visibly signaling when a golf club head strikes the mat surface behind the ball prior to contacting the ball, thereby indicating a poor golf swing (as per claims 1, 9, and 17), in combination with other presented limitations.

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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TC3700